

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc. (Formerly: McGraw-Edison Power Systems; Cooper Power Systems)

**30 Curry Avenue
Canonsburg, PA 15317
Congressional District 20
EPA ID #: PAD004339297
Last Updated 6/30/2005**

Current Progress at the Site

Pennsylvania Transformer Technology, Inc. (PATT) finalized an additional Consent Order & Agreement (CO&A) on April 14, 2005 with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to address maintenance issues with the existing pump and treat systems; subsurface lithology identification; further groundwater, surface water, and sediment sampling; and issues relating to the stormwater and sewer piping. PATT has submitted draft work plans to PADEP pertaining to all the items addressed under the CO&A.

PATT has initiated a site characterization program (initiated on 4/12/05) to delineate the plume associated with the "Guard House Seep". This seep has been the source of polychlorinated biphenol (PCB) contaminated oils into Chartiers creek. The investigation of the Guardhouse seep has yielded significant information and the opportunity to recover contamination entering Chartiers Creek.

Several groundwater monitoring wells were drilled to intercept fracture networks identified during GPR and VLF (very low frequency) geophysical surveys. A significant volume of oil contaminated with PCBs, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) was encountered in more than one of the wells. The oil, an obvious source of the contamination entering Chartiers Creek, is now being recovered at the rate of 30 - 50 gallons in eight hours. The recovery effort is going to transition to a 24 hour/ 7 day a week basis. Several other recently drilled monitoring wells have also yielded recoverable oil.

There is still a significant amount of site characterization activities that needs to be completed. EPA will review this information as it is received and determine if further activities are required to protect human health and the environment.

Site Description

PATT is located approximately one mile northeast of Canonsburg in Washington County, Pennsylvania along Chartiers Creek. This facility occupies 92 acres and consists of several industrial buildings that were constructed in the early 1900's. The original owner of the site was the Defense Plant Corporation, who manufactured warheads at the site for an unknown time period before 1947. In 1947, the property was purchased by Pennsylvania Transformer, who manufactured large power transformers and switch gears. In 1963, Pennsylvania Transformer merged with Lines Products to form McGraw-Edison, who also operated as an electrical transformer manufacturing/ reconditioning center. In 1985, Cooper Power Systems bought the site from McGraw-Edison and continued to manufacture switchgear and transformers. In 1996, PATT purchased the Facility from Cooper and began operations in 1997. Current hazardous wastes generated at the facility is limited to paint related waste and parts cleaning solutions.

Groundwater at the facility is contaminated with PCBs, VOCs, oil, and grease. Contaminated groundwater is recovered and treated under a CO&A with PADEP. The groundwater treatment system consists of two groundwater collection systems (one in the southwestern and one in the northern portion of the Facility combined) and another system to treat contaminated storm water. All treated water is discharged to Chartiers Creek through two permitted outfalls that are sampled on a regular basis.

PATT continues to pump and treat contaminated groundwater and collect and treat surface runoff at their Canonsburg facility under a CO&A with the PADEP. EPA reviewed the Environmental Indicator Inspection Report and contacted PADEP to determine if there were any concerns with PATT. Based on the discussion, a site visit was performed on May 3, 2004. In attendance were representatives from EPA, PADEP, PATT, and Penn E&R (PATT's environmental consultant).

Site Responsibility

The majority of Corrective Action activities at this facility have been conducted through Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Consent Order & Agreements and through the delegated portions of RCRA or the Environmental Cleanup Program. EPA Region 3 will determine if any additional Corrective Action under RCRA is necessary.

Contaminants

Groundwater and soil contaminants of concern at the Facility include: PCB's, VOCs, oil, and grease.

Community Interaction

EPA will invite the public to comment on any proposed corrective measures required before they are implemented at the Facility.

Institutional Controls

There are currently no institutional controls established at this facility.

Government Contacts

EPA Project Manager
Mr. Kevin Bilash - 3WC22
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: (215) 814-2796
Email: bilash.kevin@epa.gov

Mr. Sam Harper
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Phone: (412) 225-1943
Email: spadaro.carl@dep.state.pa.us

Facility Contacts

Mr. Michael O'Brien
Director of Environmental Affairs
Cooper Industries
600 Travis Street, Suite 5800
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: (713) 209-8612

Jason Stull
Plant Engineering Supervisor
Pennsylvania Transformer Technology
30 Curry Avenue
P.O. Box 440
Canonsburg, PA 15317
Phone: (724) 873-2258

For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm